(c) and (d) There is no proposal to increase the number of BRTF. The present strength is more than needed for the General Staff road works. The spare capacity is being used for doing the Agency works. BRO's endeavour is to enhance the output of organization with the existing manpower, with the help of greater mechanization and use of upgraded construction equipments.

Statement

Implementation of Road Communication Projects by BRTF in North East.

Name of State	Number of BRTF working
Assam	3
Arunachal Pradesh	5
Manipur	1
Mizoram	2
Nagaland	1
Tripura	1

Unwarranted Interference Hindering AJT Deal

4412. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of a statement attributed to him in the Hindustan times dated 20th February, 2002 captioned "Interference delaying AJT".

(b) if so, whether the purchase of Advanced Jet Trainer is actually being delayed due to unwarranted interference from certain quarters;

(c) if so, what is the nature of source of such unwarranted interference; and

(d) when Government proposed to finalise the purchase of Advanced Jet Trainer?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The process of acquisition of an AJT has been prolonged due to a number of reasons. Government is keen on early finalization of the process. However, it would not be possible to lay down a definite frame.

Demand for Manipur Regiment in the Army

4413. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the demand of the people and the State Government of Manipur for a Manipur Regiment in the Indian Army;

(b) if so, the action so far taken by Government; and

(c) how long it will take for the demand to materialize?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There is no proposal to raise a separate Manipur Regiment in the Indian Army.

(b) and (c) The policy of the government is not to raise any new regiment on the basis of a particular class, creed, community, religion or region, but to have an Army in which all Indians have representation.

Recruitment of Civil Engineers as ASW in MES

4414. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that degree holders in Civil Engineering are directly recruited as Assistance Surveyor of Work in Military Engineering Service;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that they are required to pass final examination from Institute of Surveyors before considering them for promotion to SW rank;

(c) if so, the details thereof including the number of such Assistant Surveyor of Work in Military Engineering Service who are